

Fundraising for the bust was organized and initiated by the Pendergast family, who have known Herrera since childhood.

The American G.I. Forum also formed a Silvestre Herrera Chapter on June 23, 1995. On March 15 of this year, the G.I. Forum will salute Herrera on the 51st anniversary of that fateful day in 1945.

I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting and thanking Mr. Herrera for his service to the country and his heroism under fire.

HONORING ROBERT LEENEY ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 1996, Mr. Robert Leeney will celebrate his 80th birthday. He is being honored by the board of Albertus Magnus College on March 14, 1996. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to salute this incredible individual, who has contributed so much to the city of New Haven.

Bob retired in 1981 as editor of the New Haven Register after a 50-year career with the paper including 11 years as executive editor and 9 years as editor. He had been awarded the New England Associated Press News Editor Yankee Quill Award for excellence in writing. His long tenure at the paper is distinguished by extensive community involvement. Bob grew up in the Fair Haven area and remained devoted to the improvement of the New Haven area throughout his career. In September 1994, Bob was awarded the New Haven Colony Historical Society Seal of the City Award. The seal is awarded to those whose ideas or activities contributed to the quality of life, prosperity, or improvement of the New Haven region. He has also received the Trinity Council Knights of Columbus Community Service Award and the Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award, which is their highest honor.

Bob's early career in newspaper began as a theatre critic and he frequently reviewed plays at the Shubert Theatre. He was a member of the Drama Critics Outer Circle. He maintained his interest in theatre throughout his life and served on the board of Long Wharf Theatre. His service on the boards of local hospitals and colleges serves as a testament to his interest in and concern for all aspects of New Haven life. After his retirement, Bob served on the State Freedom of Information Commission.

Finally, Bob continues to write for the New Haven Register with a weekly column entitled "Editor's Note." It is here that he continues to contribute his ideas and thoughts on a range of issues from his boyhood memories of New Haven to recent world events. He remains one of the most prominent representatives of the New Haven Register and an important link between the city's past and present. I wish Bob a very happy 80th birthday and it is my deepest hope that we will have the benefit of his wisdom and kindness for many more years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL R. MULDERIG

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished community service of Michael R. Mulderig, a distinguished civil servant and Democratic Party leader, on the occasion of being named the First Ward and South Buffalo Democratic Association 1996 Irishman of the Year.

Mr. Mulderig has served the city of Buffalo in several capacities under former mayor, the Honorable James D. Griffin. To that end, Mr. Mulderig served as the confidential aide to the mayor, license director for the city of Buffalo, and assistant director of stadium operations at the city's ballpark.

In addition to these remarkable duties, Mike Mulderig has served western New York as a former president of the South Buffalo Democratic Association. Currently, Mr. Mulderig is the chairman of the second zone for the Democratic Party.

As a fellow American of Irish descent, I truly appreciate the contributions Mike Mulderig has made on behalf of the city of Buffalo, and offer my thanks and commendation to both he and the association for recognizing the efforts of Irish-Americans in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the Mulderig family, his colleagues, friends, the First Ward and South Buffalo Democratic Association, and indeed, the entire western New York community to honor Mr. Michael R. Mulderig for his dedication, hard work, and commitment to western New York, the city of Buffalo, and the Irish-American community on his being named the 1996 Irishman of the Year.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1561, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1996 AND 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1561, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 1996. I oppose this conference report because it is an unwarranted usurpation of the President's constitutionally mandated foreign policy authority. It requires a sweeping reorganization of U.S. foreign policy agencies, but fails to provide the President the flexibility to undertake this reorganization in a manner which he believes is consistent with the national security interests of this Nation.

This bill also continues the extreme Republican opposition to voluntary international family planning programs, slashing them by a devastating 87 percent, and which could lead to tens of thousands of unwanted pregnancies and abortions.

I oppose this bill with some reluctance because it contains some provisions which I strongly support, including authorization for the International Fund for Ireland, support for the MacBride Principles, and a provision based on the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act.

I have long supported the International Fund for Ireland and enactment of the MacBride Principles on a Federal level. While a member of the New York City Council, I authored one of the first MacBride bills in this Nation and I continue to strongly believe that this Nation should not do business with any company which practices religious discrimination. Likewise, I support strongly the International Fund for Ireland. Continued economic investment in Northern Ireland and the border countries is absolutely imperative. Enhancing the standard of living in Ireland is critical to improving the prospects for peace in that troubled part of the world.

The Humanitarian Aid Corridor was enacted for 1 year as part of the fiscal year 1996 foreign operations appropriations bill. Nevertheless, it is important that this provision become permanent law. Nations which restrict the flow of U.S. humanitarian aid to third countries should be barred unequivocally from receiving the benefit of our economic aid. This situation has been most blatant in the case of Turkey, which has blocked United States humanitarian aid to the newly independent nation of Armenia. This blatant contempt for United States policy objectives should deprive Turkey from receiving assistance from our country.

I would vote for the International Fund for Ireland, the MacBride Principles, and the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act if they were included in another measure. Unfortunately, this bill, with its partisan and shortsighted attack on the foreign policy powers of the President, is not one for which I can vote.

DRUGS AND GUNS: A LETHAL COMBINATION

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which would ensure that drug abusers who break the law do not have access to firearms. My legislation, which was part of the 103d Congress' Republican crime bill, would impose strict penalties and fines for misdemeanor during crimes such as use or possession of an illegal substance when a firearm is present. Similar to legislation I have introduced in past years, my bill has had the endorsement of the Pennsylvania State Chiefs of Police and the National Association of Chiefs of Police.

Under current Federal law, a person convicted of a felony crime involving drugs and firearms faces increased criminal penalties and is also prohibited from legally owning a firearm. This is not the case, however for individuals convicted of less serious drug offenses.

My legislation is simple: It expands current law to treat individuals who commit less-serious drug offenses in the same manner as people involved in other drug crimes, such as drug-trafficking. Any person found guilty of a drug crime not currently classified as a felony, including simple possession of a controlled substance, and who possesses a firearm at the time of the offense, will face mandatory jail time and/or substantial fines in addition to any penalty imposed for the drug offense. For second or subsequent offenses, jail time and fines are mandated.